TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
[illegible] UNIVERSITY, N.Y.

Westfield June 23 — 1828 —

My dear Sir, Since I sent you a letter from N.Y. in Dr. Porter's bundle. I have received 2 letters from you & rejoice to hear that you are so much taken up with Carices. But what apology shall I make for not visiting W. Point: this is my apology I could be absent from home but 10 days, & could not spare the time & do justice to my friends in the city. I wanted to see you & more especially when Dekay told me you began to dream of Carices.

I proceed to give you my views upon some of our Carices.

C. crinita I find in Westfield with all the spikes pist.— thus making it sometimes dioecious — sometimes it is androgynous — the spikelets are ~~elliptic~~ not cylindric like the real crinita — scales less prominent. I suppose it to be C. gynandra of Schw. but it is doubtful whether it be any thing but a var. of crinita —

C. Scoparia presents the 3 following Var. 1. Spikelets 5–7 elliptic, large, alternate which is the C. Scoparia of the books. 2. 5–9 spikelets crowded in a capitulum — small — 3. has a rachis slender & recurved. spikelets obovate, or elliptic — obtuse — Prof. D. thinks it a new sp. It is his C. tenera

C. acuta 1 Var. has a leafless culm — C. stricta of Schw. I suppose — I want to see the descriptions —

C. foena Muhl. a few days since I found a carex as yet I suppose it may be the C. foena of Muhl. among 3 or 4 specimens I found — only had the lower spike compound — all had a sub-distant pistil. spikes 8 to 12. It agrees pretty well with the description in Elliott except the lower bracteal leaf which is too short — It resembles C. lagopodioides —

C. Willdenowii I have not seen in this region — C. vestita common on sandy plains — grows the best in moist sandy ground —

C. gracillima of Schw. you think is C. digitalis - but C. digitalis has 1 staminate spike - C. gracillima has uniformly the terminal spike androgynous.

C. muricata. I am in trouble about this Carex & should like to be helped out - I doubt as to its growing in this region - Did not Linnaeus describe 2 plants under the name of C. muricata? In some notes I took of Synonyms some time since I find one to this effect - viz. C. Muricata of Linn. in his Flor. Suecica - is C. Stellulata of Wahl. & Schukhr & Lightf - in the Scotica Flor. has a C. spicata synonym of C. muricata Linn. & he has C. muricata which is Stellulata of Schukhr i.e. C. muricata of Linn. making out 2 C. muricata's in Lin. works -

C. Stellulata of Schw. analytic table is ~~[illegible]~~ supposed Stellulata of Wahl. & Light. & this has also for a Synonym C. retroflexa - I have supposed ~~that~~ very likely that C. Stellulata & C. muricata as now described may be one. - But C. Sparganioides & muricata according to my ideas of them differ essentially. Cap. of C. Sparg. is winged - more distinctly ciliate & Pist. Scale broader & larger -

I have just received a bundle from Dr. Jacob containing some fine spec. of C. pauciflora he says he has sent some to you very recently - He sent also C. lenticularis Mx - C. cylindrica Schw. growing in that vicinity -

C. Novi-angliae Schw. Respecting this plant some caution I think should be used ~~as~~ I think the History of it shows that it ought not to be published as a new species in any standard work at present. Prof. D. & myself found it on Saddle Mt in the summer of 1823 - We found it only in one place at a considerable elevation above the valley in thick shady woods - Now it has a very ~~about~~ resemblance to C. varia, & I suppose it is not certain that it would not become a true C. varia if planted in the same soil with it. The question to be decided is whether the ~~difference~~ effect of climate & the shade does not make the difference between it & varia - Only one locality of it has yet been found - C. Deweyana I call a new sp. & probably will stand - I am not confident that C. disperma & C. trisperma are separate plants - The curious disposition of the staminate florets seems to me to ~~[illegible]~~ arise from circumstances rather than from any thing determinate in nature - Dewey may be right however - ~~They both~~ differ from C. loliacea as I learned from the Herbarium in the N.Y. Lyceum.

I have the following N. Am. Carices - 80 Sp.

–C. cephalophora
–bromoides
–stipata
–Muhlenbergii
–multiflora
sparganioides
–rosea
vesiculata
teretiuscula
–scirpoides
–lagopodioides
–straminea
–scoparia
–festucacea
–caespitosa
–crinita
–acuta
–polytrichoides
–pedunculata
–virescens
hirsuta
–trichocarpa
buxbaumii
–varia
–marginata
–vestita
–tentaculata
–lupulina

The sp. marked thus — are all yet found in Westfield —

C. flava
–folliculata
xanthophysa
–pubescens
plantaginea
anceps
–granularis
[illegible]
–hystricina
umbellata
–pseudo-cyperus
–pellita
–lacustris
–vesicaria
bullata
[illegible]
–tenera
formosa
–gracillima
setacea
deweyana
disperma
trisperma
novaeangliae
scabrata
retrorsa
Schweinitzii
pyriformis

C. filiformis
pauciflora
lenticula[illegible]
–longirostris
squarrosa
albolutescens
–costata
. alpestris
alba
–Van Vleckii
granularioides
–pallescens
–gynandra
cylindrica
–stricta
+retroflexa
–sylvatica
– +muricata
+miliacea
–laxiflora
–flexuosa
cristata D.
–cristata Sch.
+oligocarpa

+ doubtful.

I will send you a bunch of Carices the first oppor-tunity - I must wait for some of our merchants to visit N. Y. Very lately I have found a Carex unknown to me I think it must be a new one for this region - I send a spike which must satisfy you till I send the bundle -

John Torrey Prof. of
Military Academy
West Point
N. Y.

18¾

Jun 23

E. Davis,
June 23d 1825
Recd —
Aug 2

On Tuesday we had a violent storm of thunder & lightening no rain untill sometime after - I was about 2 rods distant from a large tree in the street going towards it when it struck - & was considerably affected with the shock & have not yet wholly recovered - Several gentlemen more remote than myself were affected by it - We have all had more or less pain

I am, Sir, yours with esteem
Emerson Davis

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